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PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC-TV  
NBC Network

DATE November 23, 1982 7:00 A.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Interview with Seymour Hersh

TOM BROKAW: There are new charges out this morning that Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger were responsible for the death of President Salvador Allende of Chile. Judy Woodruff is in our Washington studio with the reporter who broke that story.

JUDY WOODRUFF: We are with Seymour Hersh, who is working on a book right now on Henry Kissinger.

You have an article coming out in The Atlantic magazine this month. It's being released today. And what exactly are you accusing Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon of doing?

SEYMOUR HERSH: Well, let me make clear I'm not accusing them of the death of Allende in '73. We don't know what happened in '73, if he was overthrown and killed or committed assassination [sic] during the overthrow. What I'm saying is we've been looking at the wrong issue. The real story isn't what happened in '73. It seems to me one of the stories we could look at is what happened in 1970 when Allende was elected.

WOODRUFF: And what are you saying their precise involvement was?

HERSH: I'm saying that I started out writing a book about Kissinger, Nixon, and their foreign policy, and I decided to take a good hard look at how policy is made, what really happens. And I've discovered that in Chile in 1970 the CIA thought, Richard Helms and others...

WOODRUFF: Excuse me. Now we're seeing pictures of Allende's inauguration, and this was in November of 1970.

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THE WASHINGTON POST  
23 NOVEMBER 1982

## New Charges Reported In CIA Plot on Allende

By John Dinges  
Special to The Washington Post

CIA activities to prevent Salvador Allende from assuming the Chilean presidency in 1970 were more extensive than previously acknowledged in official accounts, author Seymour M. Hersh asserts in the December issue of Atlantic Monthly.

Hersh charges, based on the account of an unnamed "close associate" of then-CIA director Richard Helms, that President Nixon "specifically ordered the CIA to get rid of Allende"—an order that Hersh contends amounted to a go-ahead to assassinate Allende if necessary.

"Helms told the associate there was no doubt in his mind at the time what Nixon meant," Hersh writes.

The "close associate," Hersh writes, was relating Helms' personal account of a Sept. 15, 1970, Oval Office meeting of Nixon and then national security adviser Henry A. Kissinger, who the source said later "pressured [Helms] again on the subject."

Helms testified in 1975 hearings before the Senate Intelligence Committee that Nixon's orders at that meeting referred to Allende's overthrow and did not "in his mind" include assassination.

Hersh's account, which is adapted from his forthcoming biography of Kissinger, does not contain the kind of smoking gun evidence that would drastically alter the picture drawn in the 1975 Senate hearings.

Testimony then revealed that the CIA financed an unsuccessful covert propaganda campaign against Allende's election, and later participated in various plots with Chilean politicians and military leaders to keep him from taking office after his plurality victory in September, 1970.

accounts from a half-dozen alleged participants in the Chile operations, including two deep-cover CIA operatives whose identities were previously unknown.

The agents, called "false-flaggers" by the CIA because of their use of false Latin American passports as cover, were veteran agents assigned to give CIA money and instructions to "extreme right-wing terrorists," including cashiered Gen. Roberto Viaux and other Chilean military leaders plotting against Allende, Hersh writes.

Viaux led a kidnaping attempt Oct. 22, 1970, that resulted in the murder of the head of the Chilean armed forces, Gen. Rene Schneider—an operation the CIA has disavowed.

Hersh quotes the U.S. military attache in Chile at the time, Col. Paul C. Wimert Jr., as saying he "figured they [the false-flaggers] had been sent to Santiago to arrange for Allende's death."

According to the article, an aide in the National Security Council, Yeoman Charles E. Radford, told Hersh that he saw option papers that discussed ways to assassinate Allende. Hersh's article does not cite any evidence that plans to kill Allende were put into operation.

ARTICLE APPENDED  
ON PAGE A-3THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
23 NOVEMBER 1982

# CIA reportedly got OK for Allende slaying

BOSTON (UPI) — Former President Richard Nixon and his secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, gave the CIA "a blank check" to arrange the assassination of President Salvador Allende of Chile in 1970, it was reported yesterday.

CIA Director Richard Helms was approached by both men and Nixon gave him a "blank check to move against Allende without informing anyone," according to an article in the December issue of Atlantic Monthly magazine.

The Chilean president was killed in a coup three years later but there was no known evidence of CIA involvement. The Atlantic Monthly article is an excerpt of Seymour M. Hersh's book, "The Price of Power: Kissinger in Nixon's White House."

Helms told the Senate Intelligence Committee in 1975 he did not consider

assassination to have been included in Nixon's authorization to move against the Chilean president but the former CIA director reportedly told a different story to a "close associate" reached by Hersh.

"In a later conversation ... Helms provided a much more credible description of what took place on Sept. 15: Nixon had specifically ordered the CIA to get rid of Allende," Hersh wrote.

"Helms told the associate that there was no doubt in his mind at the time what Nixon meant."

Helms was pressured again on the subject at least one time by Kissinger, the article said.

The Intelligence Committee reported Nixon authorized the CIA to stage a military coup if possible to prevent Allende's election in October 1970 but also said it could find no

evidence of American-backed assassination plotting.

Hersh said he also interviewed CIA agents who took part in an intensive anti-Allende campaign in late 1970 and obtained highly classified CIA files not turned over to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

He reported Yeoman Charles E. Radford, who handled documents in a National Security Council office, was shocked to discover in 1970 a White House paper proposing different ways to kill Allende.

The article said Helms ordered four veteran CIA agents into Chile between Sept. 15 and Oct. 24, 1970, the day the Chilean Congress confirmed Allende's election.

The agents, known as "false-flaggers," were to contact members of the Chilean military known to be eager to stage a coup, the article said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
23 NOVEMBER 1982

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## *New Charges Are Raised on Plots By the C.I.A. to Topple Allende*

By LESLIE H. GELB

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 — American intelligence officers maintain that efforts to overthrow President Salvador Allende Gossens of Chile continued long after Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger testified they had stopped, according to an article in The Atlantic Monthly.

In the current issue of The Atlantic, Seymour M. Hersh names and quotes Central Intelligence Agency officials who were involved in the coup plotting as having said they had reason to believe they were simply carrying out the orders of President Nixon and Mr. Kissinger. These activities began in 1970 with the prospect of Mr. Allende's election and ended in 1973, when Mr. Allende died in a military coup.

Before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, Mr. Kissinger stated in sworn testimony in 1975 that covert plans to topple the Allende regime were terminated on Oct. 15, 1970, and that he heard nothing further about any such American actions. He was supported in this by Alexander M. Haig Jr., who was Mr. Kissinger's deputy, and by Mr. Nixon. They stated, in effect, that whatever happened after that date, the Central Intelligence Agency did on its own.

Mr. Hersh names and quotes C.I.A. agents and cites classified documents showing extensive contacts between American covert operators and Chilean coup plotters, including the passing of money to those Chileans subsequently convicted of assassinating Gen. René Schneider, the Commander in Chief of the Chilean Army, who stood in the way of efforts to overthrow Mr. Allende.

Mr. Hersh's account also cites intelligence officials and others who would not be identified as saying that the C.I.A. was pressed by the White House in the fall of 1970 to arrange for the assassination of Mr. Allende. To support this charge, Mr. Hersh describes what he says was a conversation between Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence at the time of the coup plotting, and "a close associate" of Mr. Helms. The associate said that Mr. Helms had told him that the White House had ordered him to get rid of Mr. Allende and that there was no doubt in his mind what the White House meant by this.

A spokesman for Mr. Kissinger, asked about the Hersh article today, said, "He has nothing to add to what he has previously written on the subject."